Spurt in the Level of Rural Poverty

871. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the 53rd round of National Sample Survey the rural poverty has risen from 35.04 per cent to 38.46 per cent during the period 1991—1997;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the reasons for this Spurt in the level of rural poverty;

(c) if so, the details thereof and what measures are proposed to be taken to reverse the trend; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at National and State level from the large sample survey data on consumer expenditure. The latest estimate of poverty are available for the year 1993-94 from the NSS consumer expenditure data of the 50th Round according to which 37.27% of the rural population lived below the poverty line. As the NSS 53rd Round of consumer expenditure data are collected on the basis of thin sample, these are not used by the Planning Commission to derive official estimates of poverty.

(b) to (d) In view of above, do not arise.